

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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P R 251410 APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 5502
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RH
SUBJ: DAILY MAIL RECOMMENDS CAUTION ON RHODEISA
CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE

BEGIN LILITED OFFICIAL USE
SUMMARY: DAILY MAIL APRIL 25 IN ANOTHER IN DEPTH NEWS
ANALYSIS ARTICLE, WHICH WE BELIEVE WAS CLOSELY CO-
ORDINATED WITH STATE HOUSE, SPELLS OUT RESERVATIONS
ABOUT CONVENING A CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA. TWO MOST
NOTABLE ELEMENTS IN THIS PRESENTATION ARE: (1) A CLEAR
STATEMENT THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS NOT REJECTED U.S.
INVOLVEMENT IN A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE AND THAT THE
FRONT WILL GO ALONG WITH TALKS; AND (2) THE LINKING OF
U.S. POLICIES TOWARDS NAMIBIA WITH U.S.' APPROACH TO THE
RHODESIAN PROBLEM. (U.S. FAILURE TO OPPOSE TURNHALLE
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INDICATES POSSIBLE WILLINGNESS TO SEE A "PUPPET" REGIME INSTALLED
IN ZIMBABWE.) END SUMMARY.
END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

PRINCIPLE ITEMS OF INTEREST PRESENTED IN THE DAILY MAIL
PIECE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

---PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF THE U.S. GETTING INVOLVED IN RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS TO THE EXTENT OF CO-SPONSORING A CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, THE "FRONT HAS BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO SAY IT REJECTS AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT." RATHER, THE FRONT HAS SAID IT OBJECTS TO U.S. INVOLVEMENT ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD INTERNATIONALIZE THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM AND LEAD TO DEMANDS THAT THE USSR BE INCLUDED AS WELL. PATRIOTIC FRONT HAS MADE ITS POSITION QUITE CLEAR. "IT WILL GO ALONG WITH THE TALKS. BUT IT HAS FAITH IN THE VICTORY ON THE BATTLEFIELD."

--- AFTER HIS TALKS WITH SMITH AND VORSTER, OWEN WAS LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT BOTH MEN SERIOUSLY SEEK A PEACEFUL RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT AND THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MAJORITY. HOWEVER, MAJORITY RULE FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT MEANS A GOVERNMENT CHOSEN BY ONE MAN ONE VOTE. THIS IS NOT WHAT SMITH AND VORSTER HAVE IN MIND. SMITH AND BEHIND HIM VORSTER ARE INTENT ON INSTALLING A PUPPET (UZOREWA). LONDON AND WASHINGTON HAVE NOT DENIED CHARGES THAT THEY WANT TO SEE MUZOREWA PLACED IN POWER. THIS LACK OF DENIAL HAS LED THE FRONT TO BELIEVE THERE IS SOME TRUTH IN THE CHARGES. FRONT'S CONCERNS HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED BY THE MEETING BETWEEN MUZOREWA AND SECRETARY VANCE. SMITH WILL NEVER ACCEPT TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE FRONT.

---BEHIND SMITH'S DETERMINATION TO PREVENT TRUE NATIONALIST COMING TO POWER IN ZIMBABWE LIES VORSTER. HE HAS SHOWN CLEARLY BY HIS POLICY OF PRESSING AHEAD WITH THE TURNHALLE TALKS THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF GRANTING TRUE INDEPENDENCE TO NAMIBIA. IF VORSTER IS UNWILLING TO GRANT MAJORITY RULE IN NAMIBIA, HOW CAN HE BE EXPECTED TO PRESS SMITH TO DO SO IN ZIMBABWE? AT NO POINT OVER THE LAST MONTHS DID THE U.S. PRESSURE VORSTER TO RENOUNCE TURNHALLE. "IF THE AMERICANS HAVE BEEN SILENT ON TURNHALLE, HOW CAN THEY BE EXPECTED TO OPPOSE WITH A CLEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSCIENCE THE INTRODUCTION OF A PUPPET REGIME IN RHODESIA?" IT IS TRUE THAT WESTERN DIPLOMATS HAVE SEEN VORSTER RECENTLY ABOUT THE NEW NAMIBIAN CONSTITUTION.

---"IF VORSTER SETS UP A PUPPET REGIME WITH THE HELP OF THE WEST IN RHODESIA, THE FRONT HAS SAID IT WILL FIGHT THAT REGIME. IF THERE IS STRIFE IN RHODESIA IN THE FUTURE OVER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUPPET, VORSTER WILL HAVE HIMSELF TO BLAME AND WILL COME TO REGRET HIS ACTIONS."

LOW

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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